

CLAIMS

The current claim set of the application is presented below. Indications as to the status of the claims (“original”, “currently amended”, “cancelled”, “new”, etc.) appear in parentheses after the claim number. Deletions are identified in bold with double brackets and strikethrough (e.g. ~~[[deletion]]~~) and new text is identified in bold with underlining (e.g. new language).

1. (Currently amended) A method for reducing stomach acid secretion comprising:
 - determining a first acid level of a patient with a hyperacid condition;
 - temporarily impairing functionality of a gastro-intestinal tract of the patient;
 - ablating ~~fundal~~ tissue within a stomach with an ablation probe sized to fit the stomach to inhibit the production of acid by the ~~fundal~~ tissue; and
 - determining a second acid level of the patient following a period of time sufficient to allow the gastro-intestinal tract to regain functionality after ablation
2. (Original) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 1, wherein determining the first acid level comprises monitoring acid reflux levels with an esophageal pH monitor.
3. (Previously presented) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 1, wherein the first and second acid levels are first and second esophageal acid levels.
4. (Original) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 1, wherein inhibiting the production of stomach acid comprises reducing an amount of acid refluxed into an esophagus of the patient.
5. (Original) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 1, wherein the period of time after ablation comprises one week.

6. (Original) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 1, wherein ablating tissue comprises ablating at least a portion of a mucosal lining of the stomach.
7. (Original) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 1, wherein ablating tissue comprises ablating cells that produce stomach acid.
8. (Original) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 1, wherein ablating tissue comprises:
inserting an ablation probe to the stomach via an esophagus of the patient;
moving the ablation probe to a position proximate to a mucosal lining of the stomach; and
activating the ablation probe to ablate at least a portion of the mucosal lining.
9. (Original) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 8, where the ablation probe comprises at least one of a radio frequency, laser, ultrasonic, microwave, thermal, chemical, mechanical, and cryogenic ablation probe.
10. (Original) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 8, wherein activating the ablation probe comprises delivering energy to the mucosal lining of the stomach via the ablation probe.
11. (Original) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 8, wherein the ablation probe comprises at least one electrode and wherein activating the ablation probe comprises delivering electrical current to the mucosal lining of the stomach via the electrode.
12. (Withdrawn) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 11, wherein the ablation probe comprises a conductive fluid delivery port adjacent the electrode, the method further comprises delivering the conductive fluid to the mucosal lining of the stomach prior to activating the ablation probe.

13. (Withdrawn) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 8, wherein the ablation probe includes an optical waveguide and wherein activating the ablation probe includes delivering energy from a laser to the mucosal lining via the optical waveguide.
14. (Withdrawn) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 8, wherein the ablation probe includes a cryogenic probe and wherein activating the ablation probe includes delivering cryogenic fluid to the mucosal lining via the cryogenic probe.
15. (Withdrawn) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 8, further comprising applying vacuum pressure to the mucosal lining to immobilize at least a portion of the mucosal lining.
16. (Original) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 8, wherein the catheter comprises an endoscope.
17. (Original) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion of claim 1, further comprising ablating additional stomach tissue based on a comparison of the second esophageal acid level to the first esophageal acid level.
- 18-30. Cancelled
31. (New) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion according to claim 1, wherein temporarily impairing the functionality of the gastrointestinal tract comprises the administration of anesthetic to the gastro-intestinal tract.
32. (New) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion according to claim 31, wherein the period of time is sufficient to allow the effects of the anesthetics to wear off.

33. (New) The method for reducing stomach acid secretion according to claim 1, wherein the tissue within the stomach that is ablated is fundal tissue.
34. (New) A method for reducing stomach acid secretion comprising:
determining a first acid level of a patient with a hyperacid condition;
ablating tissue within a stomach with an ablation probe sized to fit the stomach to inhibit the production of acid by the tissue;
determining a second acid level of the patient following a period of time after ablation; and
comparing the second acid level with the first acid level to determine whether the second level is lower than the first acid level.
35. (New) The method according to claim 34 further comprising ablating tissue within the stomach again if the second acid level is not sufficiently lower than the first acid level.
36. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the first and second acid levels are first and second esophageal acid levels.
37. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the period of time after ablation comprises one week.
38. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein ablating tissue comprises ablating at least a portion of a mucosal lining of the stomach.
39. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein ablating tissue comprises ablating cells that produce stomach acid.
40. (New) The method according to claim 34, where the ablation probe comprises at least one of a radio frequency, laser, ultrasonic, microwave, thermal, chemical, mechanical, and cryogenic ablation probe.